

# THE SCROLL

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O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL | SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

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## Texting while driving still major concern

Harsha Parameswaran  
Staff Writer

O'Gorman is one of many high schools residing in a state where the legal driving age is two years younger than the rest of the nation. As society continues to motorize, more students are hitting the roads, resulting in greater concern for traffic safety.

Traffic safety is the first topic student drivers learn from Driv-

er's Education programs. Students are taught the rules of the road and safety protocols to create a safe environment for both students and veteran drivers alike.

However, student drivers are still inexperienced and the concern is whether they pose a threat to traffic safety.

Distraction appears to be the number one hindrance for traf-

fic safety. "Distractions are one of the big things we see, involving texting, talking with friends, playing music and generally not paying attention to the situation around the driver," said School Resource Officer Todd Runyan.

Drivers need to focus while on the road to be aware of surrounding cars, pedestrians, signs, construction and the unsafe actions of other drivers.

"Failure to look far enough down the road to anticipate distractions such as traffic or signal changes is the most common mistake young drivers make," said driving instructor Doug Basche.

Texting while driving is the most popular attribution toward the cause of unsafe driving. A survey from a sample of 250 student drivers indicates how common texting while driving is among

O'Gorman's student body. The results showed that 12% of students admitted to texting while driving, 14% would speak rather than text on the phone while driving, and 47% would use their cell phones at stop lights or while parked. That leaves only 27% who don't consider using their phone.

see **DRIVING** page 2



KNIGHT SCROLL

German and American students take part in a costume party potluck. German students spent three weeks in America as part of the GAPP exchange. Students lived with host families and attended O'Gorman High School during their trip.

## O'Gorman hosts exchange students

### German students spend three weeks in United States

Harsha Parameswaran  
Staff Writer

On Oct. 14, O'Gorman was fortunate to receive guest students all the way from Dillenburg, Germany. These German foreign exchange students came to explore American culture and to enhance their English-speaking skills.

American culture plays an important role in learning the English language. As language already plays a significant role in culture, learning about the American culture helped German students learn the more unique aspects of the English language.

"The USA is one topic of our curriculum in English class," said Thilo Herrman, English teacher and exchange coordinator for the German exchange students. "We focus on the 'American Dream,' the key aspects from 'rags to riches,' individualism, the frontier and freedom."

The German students learned more about the popular trends and hobbies from the student body and also about the American schooling process.

The students got the opportunity to test and polish their own English speaking skills they learned in Germany with the help of native English speakers.

"The central focus behind this program for the German Students is to learn about another culture, and to learn the language and see that their school-learned language is useful even here," said German teacher Dr. Kristin Kuchenbecker.

This exploratory experience proved delightful for the German guests. They enjoyed indulging in the new themes and ideas featured in American culture, as well as those unique to O'Gorman.

The cultural exchange is mutual. The O'Gorman students are able to learn more from the German exchange students about German culture.

"This education abroad experience brings diversity to O'Gorman and a new point of view," said Dr. Kuchenbecker. "With their presentations, they introduced new topics, concepts, and culture to the O'Gorman community."

The exchange students went between classes to give presentations about their own culture, education and politics. Many of what was presented is similar to that of the American culture and lifestyle, while others were truly exotic for South Dakota culture.

See **EXCHANGE** page 2

## Students consider military service

Justin Kautz  
Activities Editor

With impending crises in Syria, Iran and other Middle Eastern nations, the United States needs to protect its borders and the borders of its allies now as much as ever.

To do so, the U.S. military needs all the future soldiers it can get.

Across the United States, high school students are making the commitment to attend an Academy or join an ROTC program for their post-secondary education.

"The most obvious reason to consider the military is to protect the lives and liberties of the United States' citizens," said senior Isaac Althoff, who is considering attendance at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo, and the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. "That is not the only reason, though."

The first – and perhaps the most pressing – alternate reason to join is that the U.S. military pays some or all of the tuition for its recruits.

In the federally sponsored Academies – Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marines – a student's tuition is paid in full. Students must go on to serve eight years of active duty and five years on reserve as payment.

ROTC, programs, on the

See **MILITARY** page 2



# Awareness vital in fighting drug use

## Weber, Carlson sound off on need for further education

Kayler Nelson  
Editor-in-Chief

Since 2006, 61 South Dakota teenagers have died in underage drinking and driving car accidents.

These statistics are staggering considering South Dakota ranks fifth for the most teenage driving fatalities while intoxicated.

The pressures of everyday life can be very strenuous for an adolescent. School, unhealthy family situations and meeting societal standards can often contribute to an adolescent's substance abuse.

"There are many reasons why adolescents might [abuse substances] such as peer pressure, a desire to fit in, curiosity, thrill-seeking mindsets, a desire to 'escape' from stress or the pressures of growing up, or as a way to proclaim independence," said Colleen Weber, Nurse Manager of the Child and Adolescent Programs at Avera Behavioral Health.

A 2011 survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stated that with-

in a 30 day period, 23 percent of South Dakota high school students smoked cigarettes and 39 percent drank alcohol. The survey went on to indicate that a combined 54 percent of students admitted to using some form of illicit drug.

Although the factors leading up to substance abuse are not necessarily ideal in and of themselves, the consequences are even more harmful.

"Drug and alcohol use impacts everyone's life in some way. There is nobody exempt the consequence of this," said O'Gorman High School guidance counselor, Donna Carlson.

"It's always somebody's mom, dad, brother, sister, best friend or classmate."

In addition to damaging relationships, adolescent drug and alcohol use physically harms the user.

"Drug abuse wreaks havoc on the brain. Nearly all drugs, either directly or indirectly, target the brain's reward system by flooding the 'circuit board' with dopamine," said Weber.

Dopamine is a neurotransmitter present in regions of the

brain that controls movement, emotion, motivation and feelings of pleasure.

Continually flooding the "pleasure center" of the brain lends way to tolerance. "This new found tolerance forces the addict to take greater and greater doses in order to feel good," said Weber.

"At some point in the addiction cycle, the drug is taken to simply feel 'normal'."

As well as harming the brain, there are additional consequences to the body from alcohol and drug abuse.

"Young people need to know the effect of [drugs and alcohol] on the body: transmission of aids through shared needles, impaired thought processes, slowed growth, accidents, overdoses, permanent brain damage and death," said Weber.

"Young people still use substances that have the potential to cause devastating, and in some cases fatal, results."

Although there are many negative aspects of adolescent drug and alcohol use, there is a silver lining. Sioux Falls has many entities in order to com-

bat this problem. Such resources include the Coalition for a Drug Free State and the Prairie View Prevention Center in Sioux Falls.

"Our educators also take an active role in education and preventative strategies against [drug and alcohol] abuse," said Weber.

"Avera McKennan also partners with Face-It Sioux Falls, which is an advocacy organization for those seeking help with drug and alcohol problems."

Both Carlson and Weber agree that education and awareness are vital aspects to counter the issue of alcohol and drug abuse. "Education is a big factor," said Carlson.

"Not only are some of these actions deemed socially acceptable, but many of them are also illegal."

Weber said that awareness is on the rise due to an increase in campaigns and programs to help combat this startling problem.

"This is an issue that constantly needs to be addressed," said Carlson. "We need to keep this out on the forefront."

South Dakota Adolescent Substance Abuse Facts

- Nationally, South Dakota teens rank second highest for binge drinking at 26.2%
- In 2012, there were four teenagers killed due to alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes
- 69% of South Dakota high school students had one or more drinks of alcohol, one or more days during their life
- The percent of total driving fatalities involving under 21 alcohol impaired drivers was 53.3%
- 48% of South Dakota high schoolers have tried smoking cigarettes
- 33% of South Dakota high school students have tried marijuana.
- 12% of South Dakota high school students have abused inhalants.

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Survey reveals driving habits

DRIVING:  
Continued from page 1

The nature of young adults' risky actions is addressed when dealing with the matter of road safety.

Speeding appears to be a more prevalent issue for the O'Gorman youth than cell phone usage. According to the previous survey, 23% of the student drivers claim to drive five miles per hour or more above the speed limit.

"Driving over the speed limit and failure to look right and left on uncontrolled intersections are some common habits students retain even after passing Driver's Education," said Basche.

EXCHANGE:  
Continued from page 1

Those most privileged to fully experience the cultural exchange are the host students whose families took care of the German students during their stay in Sioux Falls. They got to learn and experience German culture 24 hours a day for a week.

"Being a host student is hectic, but fun and totally worth it," said return host student Clara Bentz. "The Germans

are much cooler than us, that's for sure."

The five days O'Gorman shared with the German foreign exchange students provided a mutual understanding of each other's culture and a chance to meet new faces and to make new friends.

This is an event that promotes international solidarity encompassing the O'Gorman student body and the ability to open one's mind to new language, people and lifestyle.

MILITARY: Continued from page 1

Education is also a factor of unsafe driving. Younger students are permitted to drive from the age of 14 and Driver's Education does not emphasize driving experience instead of written rules. "Students take 30 hours of classroom and only six hours on the road; it should probably be reversed," said Basche.

other hand, will usually only pay some of the student's tuition via stipends and scholarships.

"The Academies and ROTC programs are a great way to make college more affordable," said senior Audra Garrigan, who recently applied to both the Air Force and Naval Academies. "With the ever-increasing cost of college, the military provides a great alternative."

With that said, the education and discipline that military students receive are unparalleled. Each of the Academies ranks well amongst the nation's top schools, and ROTC programs can heighten one's education experience at any public university.

Famous, too, in the military is a discipline that students can learn nowhere else. The unique conditioning for success fosters the leadership and maturity necessary for bright futures.



CHEYENNE CHONTOS / KNIGHT SCROLL

St. Joseph Cathedral will host the 17th annual Christmas at the Cathedral.

## Hand bells to be featured in program at Cathedral

Cheyenne Chontos  
Carolyn Frederick

This year's Christmas at the Cathedral will be held Dec. 19-22 with the theme centered on the Holy Family.

The performances are at 7:30 p.m. every night, and at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Concerts are two hours long with a 15-20 minute intermission. Each concert starts out the same with a greeting and prayer by Bishop Swain.

"This year's program includes lots of familiar Christmas carols festively arranged for the orchestra," said Dan Goeller, director and conductor of the show.

This will be the first year that a hand bell will be involved in the production, a change that many involved with the production are looking forward to.

"I've composed an exciting new piece for choir, hand bells and orchestras to open the second half of the program," said Goeller.

The other main people involved are Mark Conzemius, who is the producer and director of the orchestra. The choir is under the direction of Dan Goeller and Kevin Humke.

The concerts are sold out almost every year. "It's a very popular production that is attended by approximately 4,800 people each year. It is also broadcast on KELO on Christmas night, so you can't miss it," said Goeller.

This year is the 17th annual Christmas at the Cathedral, and the crowd is expected to be roughly the same size as in previous years.

The concert will feature soprano Marni Raab and tenor Scott Piper. Raab is a Broadway actress currently on a production of *Phantom of the Opera*, and Piper is a professional singer whose career has brought him around the globe.

# Students prepare for trip to march in Washington

Shreya Chandran  
Staff Writer

O'Gorman students march off to Washington for the right to life on Jan. 22, 2014. The March for Life, taking place in Washington D.C., is the largest peaceful protest to take place in the United States.

The trip will involve seeing monuments, museums and a youth rally with famous speakers and musicians. It will also include a Mass. A life rally outside of the capital with politicians, bishops and other influential figures will also be held. There will also be a march from the National Mall to the Supreme Court involving over half a million people.

The idea to get O'Gorman involved

could never have taken root without theology teacher Joseph Head.

"I went in high school and college, and it was always such a moving and motivating experience," said Head. "To look around and realize how many people were united on such an important issue was very encouraging."

The trip has been met with excitement from O'Gorman students. However, the cost of \$400 has proved too expensive for some students.

"I cannot afford to go, but I would love to if the fees were lower," said sophomore Rachael Edwards.

However, the benefits of this spiritual journey are considered worth it by many students.

"The March for Life is an opportunity for people to stick up for those who cannot defend themselves," said senior Nicole Clemen.

This trip helps to mature one of the core beliefs of the Catholic Church.

"I hope they will realize the battle is not over and there is still a lot of hope in the fight for life," said Head. "I hope it challenges them to grow in their own relationship with Jesus Christ and understand the call that he is giving each one of them at every second to share the Gospel of Life."

The chance to travel to Washington D.C. and support strongly held beliefs are precious to many O'Gorman students. As the trip approaches, students wait with growing anticipation.

## Students earn dress down for donations

Cheyenne Chontos  
Faith Editor

The O'Gorman community once again has the opportunity to give back to the community through the Advent Angel Tree. This year, however, campus ministry is doing something a little different.

Students have the chance to donate to Caminando Juntos, an organization that aids lower-income Latino families in Sioux Falls. Students can choose for their money to go to food, gas or infant needs.

As a slight change to the program, this year's campus ministry is offering a dress down day to the class that donates the most money. Classes must donate at least

\$500 to qualify. "We should give without seeking something in return," said campus ministry leader Jonathan Konz. "But it's also good to reward."

The first year O'Gorman gave to Caminando Juntos, they raised a total of \$22,000. Twelve thousand dollars was raised the next two years.

Campus ministry hopes the new incentive will help increase participation. "It's a gift from the entire school," said theology department head Sr. Kathryn Easley.

"It's a great program," said junior Luke Miller. "It's really easy to get involved."

Donations will be accepted until the end of the semester.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Students gather around Advent Angel Tree. The class that donates the most money will earn a dress down day.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

O'Gorman HOSA members pose for a picture at the USD cadaver lab.

## Students pursue future goals in medicine through HOSA

Samantha Lenz  
Opinion Editor

This year O'Gorman High School has introduced a new club that shows students their future as health professionals.

HOSA, which stands for Health Occupations Students of America, allows students who are aspiring to become involved in the healthcare field to realize their full potential by bringing new opportunities and scholarships to the forefront.

There are more than two hundred health care fields to be explored such as nursing, pediatrics, physical therapy, dentistry, EMT, sports medicine, ultrasound technology and

pharmacy.

"We meet once a month after school to discuss interests of the students," said co-adviser of HOSA Caitlin Werner, an O'Gorman science teacher. "We bring in speakers from these professions, and we also do activities outside of school."

This year the club took a field trip to visit the cadaver lab at USD and will be taking tours of facilities around Sioux Falls, such as the Avera clinic or Children's Care Hospital and school.

One of the speakers brought in to talk to the students was a pediatrician.

"I learned so much from the speaker. I learned that the field of pediatrics is a very rewarding

field to be in," said senior Bret Pearson.

The club will also compete in a state-wide competition in April which involves more than 55 different events ranging from quizzes to team events to practicing actual medical techniques. This includes blood pressure and CPR training.

If possible the group will qualify for nationals which are held during the summer in Orlando, Fla.

"This is a great club to help students learn more about health careers, but also be involved in their school and community," said Werner. "Plus, it is a great addition to a college resume."

## Local Eagle Scouts complete projects as service to others

Alicia Rentschler  
Staff Writer

Each year, new Eagle Scouts are logging more than three million volunteer hours from their Eagle service projects. The Eagle Scout service project is an opportunity for a Boy Scout to prove his leadership abilities.

"The main purpose of the Eagle project is for the scout to demonstrate the leadership skills that he has learned," said Henry Hassman, Advancement Chairman to the Sioux Council.

The project has to benefit a non-profit organization, and even though there is no minimum set for the time that must be spent, many Boy Scouts devote countless hours to their project.

To achieve the Eagle Scout rank, the Boy Scout has to first prepare the Eagle Scout service project workbook. The workbook shows the project proposal was approved ahead of time and properly accepted by all of the parties when finished.

The ranks a Boy Scout must progress through prior to Eagle Scouts are in the following order: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star and Life. The Boy Scout must have also earned 21 merit badges and serve six months in a leadership position.

"There is no minimum age for completing an Eagle Scout project, but you must work through

all the six prior ranks before attaining Eagle rank. You must complete it before your 18th birthday," said Michael Sulaiman, a freshman and current Eagle Scout.

Examples of Eagle Scout projects would include: creating park benches, building a water fountain at a public park, running a blood drive and even constructing a waterfall.

"Eagle projects are as diverse as the scouts," said Hassman.

O'Gorman has had many students complete an Eagle Scout service project. Sulaiman, who hails from Troop 48, chose to construct a cascading waterfall at the Washington Pavilion in Downtown Sioux Falls.

Sulaiman started his project in June of 2012 and ended it in June of 2013. Up until May of 2013, he was planning, preparing and completing paperwork for his project.

Until Sulaiman turns 18, he will have no more rank advancements. When new Eagle Scouts turn 18, they can either stay involved with Boy Scouts or become an adult leader.

After the Life Scouts become Eagle Scouts they are "expected to set an example for other Scouts and to become the leaders in life that they have demonstrated themselves to be in scouting," said Hassman.

## Quidditch team set to take flight in coming months

Mattie Penisten  
Staff Writer

Most of the students at O'Gorman did not receive an acceptance letter to the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry delivered by an owl on their 11th birthday.

However, O'Gorman is now giving its students an opportunity to experience the magical world of Harry Potter. The game of muggle quidditch is being added to the numerous activities available at O'Gorman.

For those who are not familiar with the Harry Potter series, "muggle" is a term for a person who lacks magical ability and was not born into the magical world. Quidditch is a competitive sport played on flying broomsticks.

Because most of the students attending O'Gorman are muggles, quidditch will be

played on the ground. Players will instead be required to run with a broomstick between their legs.

"The club will work like the Ultimate Frisbee club," said junior Desiree Mercer, organizer of the activity. "Anyone can show up, and based on the number of people, we will divide into teams and play."

The game field is set up with three goal posts on each side of the playing ground. Quidditch has four player positions including three chasers, two beaters, one keeper and one seeker.

The chasers try to score points by throwing a ball into the other team's goal posts - an action worth ten points. A designated player pursues the golden snitch. Whichever seeker catches the snitch first receives 30 points for their team.

Since the game will be played by muggles, they do not have access to the equip-

ment used in real, magical quidditch.

"Partially deflated volleyballs will be used as quaffles, dodge balls will be used as bludgers, and a tennis ball will be used as the snitch," said Mercer.

Many colleges are starting to include muggle quidditch into their activities as well.

"We were at the college fair and we saw one of the colleges had a muggle quidditch team," said junior Abby Baka.

At the head of the club will be theology teacher Mr. Joseph Head. Prospective members of the club are excited about his leadership.

"[Mr. Head] was a counselor at D-Camp when I was there, and he seems like a fun and spiritual guy," said Mercer. Mr. Head has also been popular with students who did not attend D-Camp.

"He's cool," said Baka. "He will be a

great leader for the club."

Like many students at the school, Mr. Head is also a huge Harry Potter fan.

"I just think it is a good idea. It's fun to see something you don't see very often," said Head. "I'm a huge Harry Potter nerd so seeing that come to life will be awesome. Harry Potter is my guilty pleasure, and I actually relate a lot to Neville Longbottom."

The club is now in the final stages of being officially added to the activities list. To get an activity approved by administration, the requirements are to find a faculty supervisor and write a paper on the activity's benefits.

"Now we're just waiting for administration to approve it and to see if this will actually happen - which it will," said Mercer.





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# Students prepare for college

Mattie Penisten  
Staff Writer

Choosing a college is one of the biggest decisions students make in high school. College decisions are recommended to be done before Thanksgiving; still, some seniors are unsure if they can be done before graduating.

Several seniors have already made the decision to remain in state, as that opens up many possibilities of scholarships or job opportunities after college. A smaller group has chosen to search for higher education elsewhere, outside the Midwest.

"One of the most important criteria for deciding on a college is if it's the right fit. It's going to be your home for the next few years, so choose wisely," says Mr. Art Hagg, guidance counselor.

A large part of eliminating the indecisiveness of picking a college is to plan early on. Juniors are already beginning to prepare this year for the decisions they must make next year.

"With the PSAT, I am studying a little bit almost every day out of a prep book. Also, my sophomore year I took the spring ACT prep class and the April test in order to get a feel for what it was like," says junior Mira Yousef. "I plan on doing much further preparation for the next ACT that I take. Another way I prepare for college admission is to take a rigorous schedule. Other than improving my GPA, my

classes will make me ready for a college curriculum."

With a myriad of tests taken as a junior, such as the ACT or the SAT, it is beneficial to research colleges first and begin studying as soon as possible, as these scores sway many colleges' decision to either admit or reject a student.

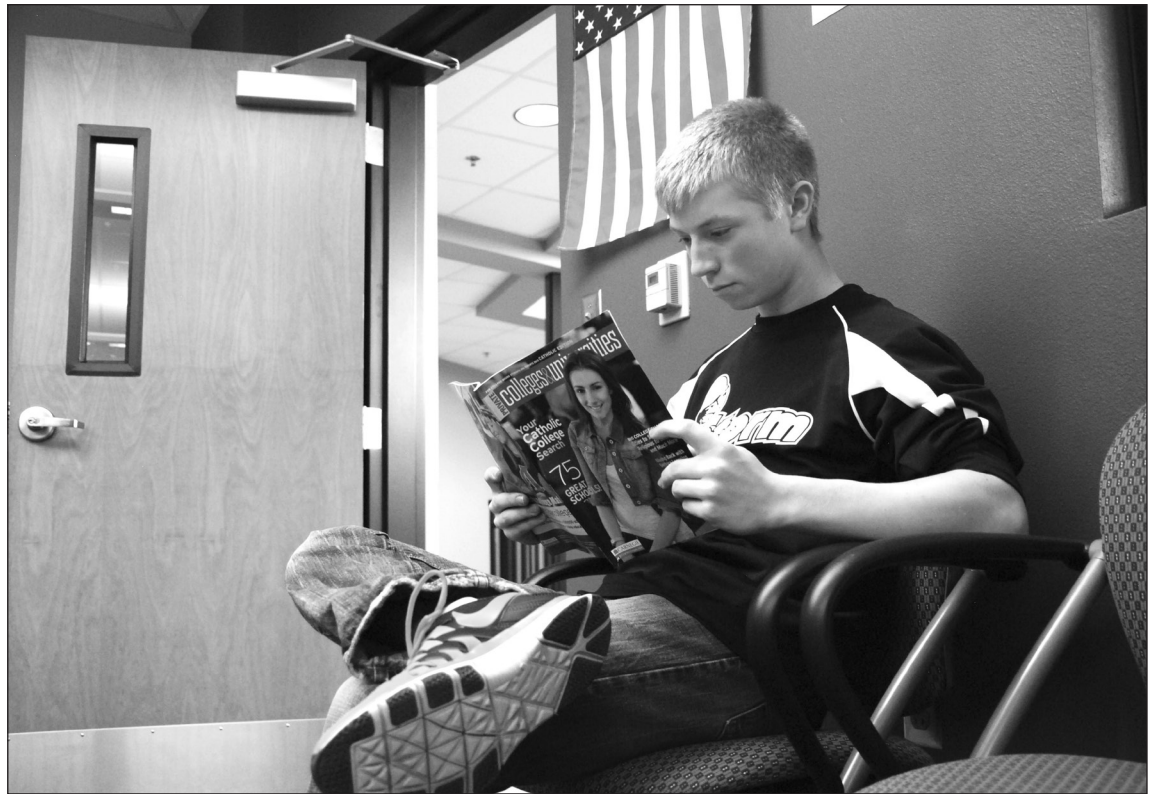
Grades, from freshman to senior, are viewed by colleges as an idea of how the student would do in a setting even more challenging than the previous one. Studying hard and staying organized are key elements to keeping grades high and satisfying to a college board's eye.

Grades alone cannot sustain a college application, however. "I am involving myself in some new activities and service projects for a future resume" says Yousef.

Colleges look for well-rounded individuals; those that are equally capable in a sport or other activity show a greater readiness for the rigorous atmosphere college provides.

Service is also a necessary element to any college application. While activities and grades show a measure of skills and an application of those skills, service informs colleges about the character of the student. At O'Gorman, it is made even easier by the requirement of 10 service hours a semester.

"My favorite Christian service I've done is helping out at the



KATE BRYCHEEVA / KNIGHT SCROLL

Junior Luke Miller scans a college magazine in the guidance office. Guidance offers a variety of options to help students prepare for college admission.

Children's Care Hospital on Halloween and Easter. We decorated eggs and took the kids trick-or-treating," says senior Catie Dougherty. "It was a really touching experience spending time with the kids because the smallest thing makes them happy, and they are so grateful for the people they have in their lives. The experience was very humbling."

Seniors this year have done much of this preparation, and while not sure at the moment,

they will know sooner than they realize.

Juniors attempt to prepare as well, as college decisions seem far away, yet arrive incredibly quickly. By increasing their abilities in both schoolwork and other activities, the chances of going to a dream college are raised; by adding preparation even earlier, the chances become even more likely.

As part of this issue of the *Knight Scroll*, popular colleges have been profiled.

Based on data collected in past *Senior Salute* issues, these schools have been well-attended by O'Gorman graduates.

Along with the profile of each school is a comment from an O'Gorman graduate currently attending the school.

For more information on each school, please visit its Web site or stop by the O'Gorman guidance office.



School: Augustana College  
Type: Private, Lutheran  
Location: Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
City population: 159,908  
Popular majors: Nursing and Education  
Student Population: 1,770  
Student/Faculty: 11:1  
Average ACT: 26  
Acceptance rate: 75%  
Application fee: \$0

Thoughts from current student: "Augie has top notch facilities, they allow us to be the best we can be in athletics and academics." - TJ Davis '11



School: Creighton University  
Type: Private, Jesuit Catholic  
Location: Omaha, Nebraska  
City population: 421,570  
Distance from Sioux Falls: 183 miles  
Popular majors: Biology and Nursing  
Student population: 4,032  
Student/Faculty: 12:1  
Average ACT: 26  
Acceptance rate: 78.2%  
Application fee: \$40

Thoughts from current student: "Creighton is the bomb! It's the perfect size because the classes are small enough that I know my professors personally. Everyone here is friendly and, because it is a Jesuit University, most people go to Mass so it's not difficult to keep up my faith life. I would definitely recommend Creighton to anyone. It is like a home away from home." - Sarah Ermer '13



School: Northern State University  
Type: Public  
Location: Aberdeen, South Dakota  
City population: 26,791  
Distance from Sioux Falls: 205 miles  
Popular majors: Business, Physical Sciences, Education, Social Sciences, Biomedical Sciences  
Student population: 2,967  
Student/Faculty: 19:1  
Average ACT: 22  
Acceptance rate: 89.8%  
Application fee: \$20

Thoughts from current student: "I would say that Northern State University is a place where you can get to know people from all over. It is a place where you are not just a number. You are a person that matters and everyone wants to help you succeed!" - Leann Schlotterback '13